Jaish Threat to increase violence in Jammu and Kashmir

*85. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "We will converge on Jammu and Kashmir, step up violence: Jaish" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th February, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken so far and further steps proposed to be taken to deal with the increasing violence and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as a result of this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is committed in its resolve to wipe out militancy from Jammu & Kashmir and to usher peace and normalcy in the State.

(c) In addition to continued diplomatic initiatives at various levels, redeployment of troops at border/ LoC and intensive pressure on terrorists in the hinterland the Government conjointly with the State Government had adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross border terrorism perpetrated by the Pak ISI in Jammu & Kashmir which includes *inter-alia* strengthening border management to check infiltration; pro-active action against terrorists within Jammu and Kashir; gearing up intelligence machinery; greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels; improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces and action as per law against over ground supporters of the terrorists.

The strategies, tactices and dynamic deployment to counter the terrorists are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored in the Unified Headquarters in the State and in Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups at various levels.

Terrorist activities of ULFA in Assam

*86 SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been spurt in the terrorist activities in Assam by ULFA putting the Chief Minister and the Home Minister on the hit list; and

(b) if so, the steps taken / proposed to be taken to address the acute security threat perception in the State as a result of hostile extremism of the ULFA?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) according to available information, militant / terrorist activities of ULFA have registered a decline in the year 2001 as compared to the year 2000.

The State Government of Assam has informed that the ULFA militants have categorized the State Chief Minister as 'enemy' because of his hard-line approach against militancy. The Sate Government is therefore, taking all necessary measures for the security of its Chief Minister and Minister of State for Home.

Besides, the Central Government has taken various steps to protect lives and properties from terrorist outfits in Assam. These include, *inter alia*, deployment of Para-military forces and Army in the State, coordinated action by Army, Para-military Forces and State Police for counter militancy operations, declaration of major militant groups as Unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, declaration of the entire State of Assam as ""disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernization / up-gradation of State Police Force. Regular review of the situation both at the level of State and Central Government is being made.

New tariff of CERC on NTPC profits

*87. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to implementation of new tariffs notified by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has estimated a fall of upto Rs. 900 crore in its profit during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) The Government of India constituted the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) Act, 1988. The functions of CERC *inter alia* include regulation of tariff of